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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,468	03/31/2004	Kit S. Lam	02307W-131410US	6380
20350	7590	03/20/2006	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			YU, MELANIE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,468

Applicant(s)

LAM ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie Yu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9, 10 and 14-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-13 and 29-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/27</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed 27 December 2005 has been entered.

Status of the Claims

2. Claims 1-30 are currently pending in this application. Claims 9, 10 and 14-28 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 29-30 are new. Claims 11-13 are currently amended.

Withdrawn Rejections

3. Previous rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph have been withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

4. Regarding the species election of group A in the restriction requirement issued 17 May 2005, applicant argues that the elected species of group A of an oligosaccharide encompasses agarose and the withdrawal of claim 9 is improper. However, agarose was listed as a separate species of species group A on page 5 of the restriction requirement and therefore should have been elected if agarose was the desired embodiment.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The reference indicated with a strike-through on the information disclosure statement filed 27 December 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li (US 6,704,104).

Regarding claims 1-3 and 7, Li teaches a microarray comprising a support of glass (col. 5, lines 55-58) having a plurality of discrete regions having a biopolymer of oligosaccharides (col. 6, lines 50-66) spotted thereon (col. 13, lines 14-20; col. 16, lines 46-53), wherein attached to the biopolymer in each of the regions is a ligand of sugar that can be the same or different from a ligand in any other of the discrete regions (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 12) wherein the biopolymer with ligand is a preformed ligand-modified biopolymer, and wherein the concentration of the ligand in the discrete regions is substantially normalized (amount of light corresponds to the concentration of ligand and is normalized, col. 14, lines 9-18). The biopolymer attached to the ligand is formed prior to sample addition to the sample to the array, and is therefore preformed.

Claim 30 is directed to a microarray made by a specific process and is thus a product by process claim. Product by process limitations do not have patentable weight because it is unclear what product limitations result from the process of making the product. Therefore any product teaching the required product limitations of a product by process claim reads on the product claim. Instant claim 30 requires the following product limitations: a microarray comprising a support having a plurality of discrete regions. As applied to claim 1, above, Li teaches the required product limitation of the microarray and support having a plurality of discrete regions,

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the microarray taught by Li encompasses the microarray recited in claim 30. The biopolymer attached to the ligand is formed prior to sample addition to the sample to the array, and is therefore preformed.

With respect to claim 6, Li teaches a biopolymer attached to the support via covalent interactions (col. 7, lines 13-18).

7. Claims 1, 4-6, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chenchik et al. (US 6,489,159).

Chenchik et al. teach a microarray comprising a support having a plurality of discrete regions having a biopolymer spotted thereon and attached via hydrogen bonding (col. 9, line 54-col. 10, line 6), wherein attached to the biopolymer in each of the regions is a ligand that can be the same or different from a ligand in any other of the discrete regions (ligand attached to biopolymer is a preformed ligand-modified biopolymer, col. 11, lines 39-48; col. different labels distinguishes between different ligands bound in different regions, 12, lines 3-14) wherein the ligand attached to the biopolymer is a preformed ligand-modified biopolymer, and wherein the concentration of the ligand in the discrete regions is substantially normalized (col. 13, lines 4-30).

Claim 30 is directed to a microarray made by a specific process and is thus a product by process claim. Product by process limitations do not have patentable weight because it is unclear what product limitations result from the process of making the product. Therefore any product teaching the required product limitations of a product by process claim reads on the product claim. Instant claim 30 requires the following product limitations: a microarray comprising a support having a plurality of discrete regions. As applied to claim 1, above, Chenchik et al.

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teach the required product limitation of the microarray and support having a plurality of discrete regions, the microarray taught by Chenchik et al. encompasses the microarray recited in claim 30.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li (US 6,704,104) in view of Bertozzi et al. (US 2003/0073157).

Li, as applied to claim 1, teaches microarray comprising a ligand attached to a biopolymer, but fail to teach attachment via chemoselective ligation.

Bertozzi teach attachment of a ligand to a biopolymer via chemoselective ligation (oligosaccharides are functionalized with chemoselective ligation in order to become suitable coupling partners, par. 63; biopolymer is an oligosaccharide, ligand is peptide scaffold, par. 57-58), in order to provide formation of a better sugar-peptide glycosidic bond.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the microarray of Li, a ligand attached to a biopolymer via chemoselective ligation as taught by Bertozzi et al., in order to control oligosaccharide structure and uniformity and provide better recognition.

9. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chenchik et al. (US 6,489,159).

Chenchik et al., as applied to claim 1, teach concentration of a ligand in discrete regions substantially normalized and a minimal signal variation desired between discrete reference spots (minimal signal variation corresponds to the amount/concentration of ligand, col. 15, lines 7-10),

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but fails to recite a specific value for concentration between discrete regions of varying less than 50%, 20% or 5%.

However, it has long been settled to be no more than routine experimentation for one of ordinary skill in the art to discover an optimum value for a result effective variable. “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum of workable ranges by routine experimentation” Application of Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235-236 (C.C.P.A. 1955). “No invention is involved in discovering optimum ranges of a process by routine experimentation.” Id. at 458, 105 USPQ at 236-237. The “discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art.” Since applicant has not disclosed that the specific limitations recited in instant claims 11-13 are for any particular purpose or solve any stated problem, and the prior art teaches that the amount of ligand between regions should be minimal, absent unexpected results, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill to discover the optimum workable ranges of the methods disclosed by the prior art by normal optimization procedures known in the microarray art.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 27 December 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Li discloses normalized fluorescence signals, but does not disclose arrays wherein the ligand concentration is normalized because the arrays disclosed by Li do not normalize ligand concentration on the substrate. Applicant's argument is not persuasive because although the fluorescent signal is normalized, the fluorescent signal is an indication of the concentration of ligand on the substrate. Therefore, by normalizing the fluorescent signal

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from the discrete regions on the array, the concentration of the ligand on the substrate is normalized.

11. Applicant also argues that the normalization procedure of Chenchik is to obviate the need to normalize ligand concentration and Chenchik specifically discloses that the ligand concentration is *not* normalized as required by the claims. Applicant's argument is not persuasive because the Chenchik specifically states that the "normalization protocol provides a method for normalizing relative amounts of target compositions". The ligands are normalized by one or more reference ribonucleic acids in a sample. Therefore Chenchik teaches that the concentration of ligands may be normalized by reference nucleic acids. The fact that the ligands of Chenchik do not need to be normalized prior to loading samples on the array does not diminish the reference's teaching of normalization of concentration of ligands.

12. Furthermore, Applicant's limitation of substantially normalizing the concentration of ligands is directed to a method limitation. Applicant's arguments against Li and Chenchik are also directed to the process of normalizing a concentration of ligands on a microarray. The instant claims are directed to a product of a microarray; therefore method limitations are not given patentable weight and only the product limitations of the instant claims must be taught by the reference. Substantially normalizing a concentration of ligands does not appear to provide any further product limitations to the microarray of the instant claims. Therefore, since Li and Chenchik teach the required product limitations of a microarray having a plurality of discrete regions having a biopolymer spotted thereon, wherein attached to the biopolymer is a ligand, as described above, the microarrays of Li and Chenchik would be capable of providing substantial normalization of a concentration of ligands in the discrete region.

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13. Regarding the rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC 103(a), applicant argues that Bertozzi fails to teach the concentration of ligands in a discrete region being substantially normalized. However, Bertozzi is not relied upon for this limitation, this limitation is taught by Li and Chenchik as described above.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Yu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2933. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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